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Chairman Eldrin Bell helps to set 2011 Legislative Priorities for the nation's largest counties

Jobs, economic recovery highlight NACo meeting

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Clayton County Board of Commissioners Chair Eldrin Bell recently participated in the National Association of Counties' (NACo) Large Urban County Caucus (LUCC) Annual Meeting to help establish the group's 2011 Legislative Priorities to influence federal legislation, regulations and funding affecting county government programs and services.

The meetings, led by LUCC Chair Ilene Lieberman, commissioner, Broward County, Fla., were held Oct. 14-15 in Palm Beach County, Fla.

Bell, vice chair of NACo's Transportation Steering Committee, has been a LUCC member since 2007 and has been active in NACo since 2005.

Twenty-nine elected county officials representing metropolitan centers from 13 states met to hear from expert speakers representing all levels of government, as well as business and education leaders. Elected county officials from the following states participated: Arizona, California, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Louisiana, Maryland, Minnesota, Nebraska, New Jersey, North Carolina, Texas and Virginia.

Issues discussed during the two days of meeting included transforming America's workforce, economic development for local governments, regional livability and sustainability initiatives, and energy efficiency and financing. Featured speakers included Rep. Chaka Fattah (D-Pa.), Chairman, Congressional Urban Caucus, and Parris Glendening, former Governor of Maryland and former Prince George's County (Md.) Executive.

Bell said metropolitan areas and county governments are uniquely positioned to lead the country toward economic recovery and job creation.

“It’s critical that counties work closely with business leaders, educators and our partners in state and federal government to promote economic growth and meet the needs of the people we serve,” Bell said. “Working through national organizations such as NACo’s Large

Urban County Caucus is an important part of our efforts here in Clayton County to communicate to the Administration and Congress the great challenges we are facing.”

On the final day of meetings, LUCC members adopted their key Legislative Priorities for 2011. In the weeks and months ahead, LUCC members will aggressively advance these Legislative Priorities in Washington, D.C.

More information about LUCC and NACo is available at:
<http://www.naco.org/legislation/policies/urbancaucus/Pages/default.aspx>

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The National Association of Counties (NACo) is the only national organization that represents county governments in the United States. Founded in 1935, NACo provides essential services to the nation’s 3,068 counties. NACo advances issues with a unified voice before the federal government, improves the public’s understanding of county government, assists counties in finding and sharing innovative solutions through education and research, and provides value-added services to save counties and taxpayers money. For more information about NACo, visit www.naco.org.